

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 15

2 **48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Steve Komadina

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO STUDY A PLAN FOR  
12 IMPLEMENTING A SYSTEM TO RESPOND TO AND PROVIDE TREATMENT IN  
13 RESIDENTIAL SETTINGS FOR PSYCHIATRIC CRISES.

14  
15 WHEREAS, persons in apparent psychiatric crises who are  
16 not a danger to themselves or others are currently underserved  
17 by the mental health care system; and

18 WHEREAS, early treatment of persons in psychiatric crises  
19 at inpatient psychiatric facilities can be less costly than if  
20 those persons are untreated and become a danger to themselves  
21 or others; and

22 WHEREAS, persons suffering psychiatric crises and the  
23 mental health community are in need of an effective method of  
24 serving those suffering persons who are not yet a danger to  
25 themselves or others; and

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1           WHEREAS, the availability of inpatient psychiatric  
2 treatment facilities and other alternatives for the treatment  
3 of persons suffering psychiatric crises are limited; and

4           WHEREAS, the prognosis for recovery of persons suffering  
5 psychiatric crises is substantially improved when early  
6 intervention and treatment are available and provided; and

7           WHEREAS, a system that includes psychiatric emergency  
8 response medical teams and psychiatric urgent care clinics for  
9 short-term treatment options in a residential setting, with  
10 mobile capabilities to respond to psychiatric emergencies, can  
11 relieve law enforcement agencies from having to respond to  
12 persons suffering psychiatric crises; and

13           WHEREAS, appropriate treatment of persons suffering  
14 psychiatric crises can include several levels of effort,  
15 including short-term respite facilities; alcohol and drug  
16 treatment facilities for persons in recovery who are homeless;  
17 semi-independent and independent living facilities for persons  
18 transitioning from treatment to recovery; and life skills  
19 training;

20           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the human services department be  
22 requested to study a plan to implement a system of response to  
23 and short-term treatment of persons suffering psychiatric  
24 crises who do not present a danger to themselves or others; and

25           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department

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1 be requested to report the findings of its study to the interim  
2 legislative health and human services committee no later than  
3 December 1, 2008; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
5 transmitted to the chair of the interim legislative health and  
6 human services committee and the secretary of human services.